

Please enter the following amendments and remarks:

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 24 and 35-116 are pending in the Application.

Claims 24, 35-40, 42, 43, 51-71, 79-97, and 106-114 have been rejected by the Examiner.

Claims 41, 44-50, 72-78, 98-105, 115, 116 have been objected to by the Examiner.

Claims 24, 35-40, 42-43, 51-71, 79-97, 106-114 have been canceled herein without prejudice while reserving the right to reintroduce these claims in this or subsequent applications without prejudice.

Claims 41, 44-45, 50, 72-73, 78, 98, 100, 105, 115-116 have been amended herein.

Reconsideration of the present Application is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Claims 24, 35-40, 42, 43, 51-71, 79-97 and 106-114 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,625,267) in view of Downs et al (U.S. patent No. 6,574,609). Claims 41, 44-50, 72-78, 98-105, 115, 116 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, however, the Examiner noted that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has canceled claims 24, 35-40, 42-43, 51-71, 79-97, 106-114 while reserving the right to reintroduce

these claims in this or subsequent applications without prejudice and has amended claims 41, 44-45, 50, 72-73, 78, 98, 100, 105, 115-116 in response to the Examiner's statement that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present Application in light of the reasons set forth herein, and a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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